

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace FIGS. 7A and 7B with new FIGS. 7A and 7B attached hereto.

REMARKS

I. Priority

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has acknowledged receipt of the claim for priority and the certified document supporting that claim.

II. Objections to Drawings

The Office Action asserts that Figures 7A and 7B should be designated by a legend such as -- Prior Art -- because only that which is old is illustrated. The Applicant submits corrected drawings. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Niikura (US. Patent No. 6,128,093). The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 3 and 7 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Niikura.

Claim 4 has been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 4 is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 5, 6, and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Appreciation is expressed for the indication that claims 2, 5, 6, and 8 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the features of claim 1 have been incorporated into claim 2 to form amended independent claim 2.

Since claims 5, 6 and 8 are dependent on the amended claim 2, they are allowable for the reasons that claim 2 is allowable, and they are allowable by the reasons of additional limitation therein.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The undersigned has been given limited recognition by the Director to prosecute as an attorney this application under 37 C.F.R. §10.9(a).

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. AIS-0014 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Registration No.: L0046 (Limited Recognition)

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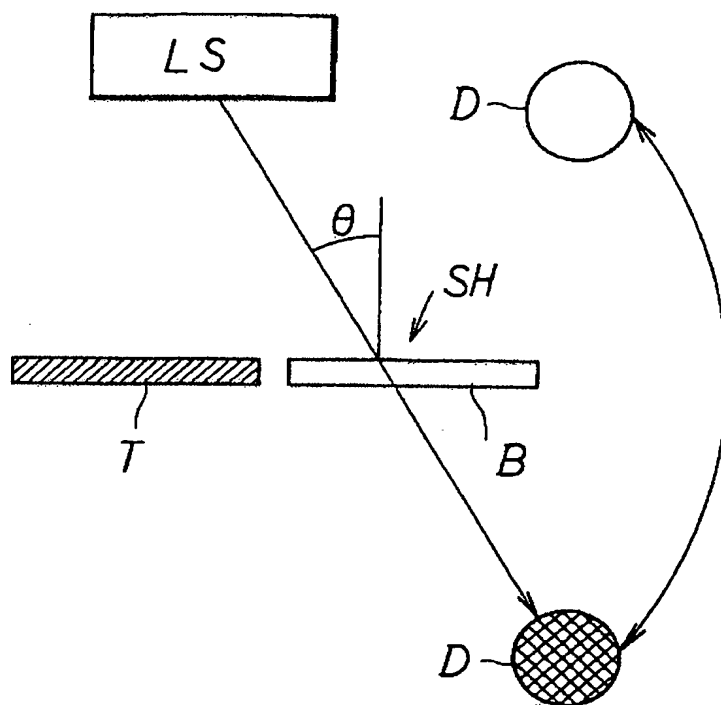
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Attorney for Applicant

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

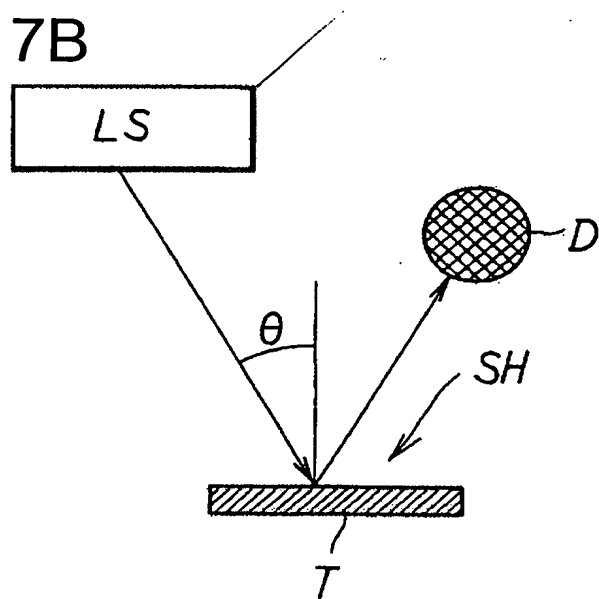
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FIG. 7A



PRIOR ART

FIG. 7B



PRIOR ART

Application No. 10/785,055
Amendment dated February 10, 2006

Docket No.: AIS-0014



REPLACEMENT SHEET